

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 1, 2008. Entry and consideration of the foregoing amendment and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

In the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 6 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include the subject matter of claim 1, and claims 2 and 4 are amended to depend from claim 6.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 to 5 but indicates that claims 6 to 8 would be allowable if rewritten independently to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendment, claim 6 has been rewritten independently to include the subject matter of canceled claim 1, from which claim 6 previously depended. It is therefore submitted that claim 6 should now be allowable, along with claims 7 and 8 which depend from claim 6. Rejected claims 2 and 4 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 6 and should also now be allowable, along with claim 3 which depends from claim 2 and claim 5 which depends from claim 4.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendment directs this application to allowable claim 6 and all the remaining claims now depend from claim 6. It is therefore submitted that this amendment deals with all outstanding grounds of objection and rejection, and that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition in all respects for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims which could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 502075**.

Respectfully submitted,

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